V. *Part of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of* Richmond, Lennox *and* Aubigné, F. R. S. *to* M. Folkes, *Eſq*; *Pr.* R. S.

Utrecht, *Tueſday*, $\frac{\text{May } 24}{\text{June } 4}$. 1743.

Read June 2. 1743. YOU will not be ſorry to receive from me ſome further Account of the *Polypus*; and I muſt tell you what I have ſeen in Mr. *Trembley*'s Study at *Sorgvliet*. He has there at leaſt a Dozen large Glaſſes of about a Foot high, each holding a Gallon or Six Quarts of Water, all which are well ſtocked with thoſe Inſects, and he muſt there have many Hundreds of them. They are, in general, conſiderably larger than any I had before ſeen; and as I was firſt with him on a *Tueſday*, and made him a ſecond Viſit on the *Sunday* following, I had the Opportunity of ſeeing the prodigious Increaſe they had made in thoſe Five Days. Several ſingle ones that I had left, had in that time put out Five or Six young Ones apiece; and thoſe I had ſeen him perform Operations upon, were not only recovered, but had moſt of them produced young ones alſo. I ſaw him ſplit the Head of one about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon on *Tueſday*, and, at about Seven the ſame Evening, each Head eat a ſmall Worm. I ſaw him ſplit another from the Head to the Tail, and each of thoſe Parts alſo eat Part of a Worm before Night. Another Operation I ſaw him make, which I had not before heard of, which was that by putting one

one of the Points of a very ſmall Pair of ſharp Sciſſars into the Mouth of a *Polypus*, and forcing it out at the very End of the Tail, he then laid it quite open like a *Pigeon*, or a *Barbacute Pig* to be broiled; yet, in about Five Hours, I ſaw the ſame *Polypus* with the Parts ſo reunited again, that I could not perceive any thing had been done to it; and it then eat a large Worm bigger than itſelf. He then ſhewed me another odd Particular, which was one *Polypus* that had fairly Two Heads without any Tail; that is, with a Head at each End, as you will ſee in the Firſt Figure annexed (ſee *p.* 513.). This was an accidental Production, and the Manner it came about was as follows: Two young ones grew, as from one Root, out of an old *Polypus*, as in the Second Figure: They both dropt off together, and their Tails not being ſeparated, they appeared as in the Firſt Figure; but, when I ſaw them, more like the Third, with ſeveral young ones putting out from their Sides. Mr. *Trembley* told me, he had ſeen the like ſometimes before, but not often; and that they have then remained Ten or Twelve Days in that Condition, after which they have ſeparated. You may lately have had this from Mr. *Trembley* himſelf; but, as it was moſtly new to me, I would not omit communicating it to you. He had in one of his large Glaſſes upwards of a Hundred of theſe Inſects all full-grown, and he regaled them all at once before me, with ſome Thouſands of what he calls *des Pucerons d'Eau*, which are ſmall aquatic *Animalcules*, not unlike Fleas, of about the Size of large ones, and which move about with great Swiftneſs in the Water.

Theſe

Theſe were no ſooner put in, but it was really both a curious and entertaining Sight, to obſerve in how voracious a Manner not only every *Polypus*, but every young one alſo that had Arms, though fixed to the Side of its Parent, ſeized and devoured theſe *Pucerons:* And as the Body of the *Polypus* is tranſparent, every one made a very extraordinary Appearance from the Number of *Pucerons* in them; for in ſeveral I could very plainly, with my bare Eye, diſtinguiſh and count Five or Six of them; and, what was very particular, I could plainly diſcern ſome very ſmall black Spots, which I was aſſured were the Eyes of theſe *Pucerons*. I had almoſt forgot to mention to you one extraordinary Obſervation more of Mr. *Trembley's*, which is, that, in the double-headed *Polypus* of the Firſt and Third Figure, there was at firſt but one common Gut between them, ſo that the feeding of one Head had the ſame Effect as the feeding them both. The Figures are but bare Sketches, but you know I am no Draughtſman, and I think they may be ſufficient to inform you of my Meaning. I need not, I believe, tell you with what Satisfaction I paſſed my Time, and that Mr. *Trembley* is one of the moſt agreeable Men I have known. He is particularly handy and dextrous in his Operations, and explains himſelf about them with great Exactneſs and Perſpicuity. He places ſome Pieces of Packthread croſs his Glaſſes towards the Top: To theſe ſome of the Inſects fix themſelves; and I have ſeen ſome that in that Poſture have extended their Arms almoſt to the Bottom, which muſt have been above Ten Inches. I ſhall ſet out from hence in Two or Three

Three Days, *&c.* . . . . . That you may enjoy the moſt perfect Health and Satisfaction, is the ſincere Wiſh of,

Dear SIR,

Your moſt faithful
and affectionate Friend, &c.

RICHMOND, LENNOX,
and AUBIGNE.

Fig. 1.

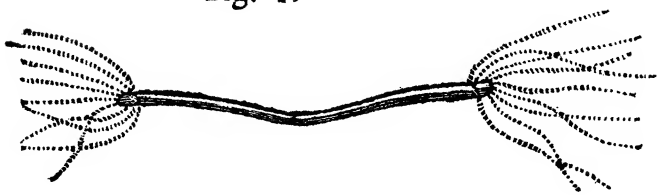

Fig. 2.

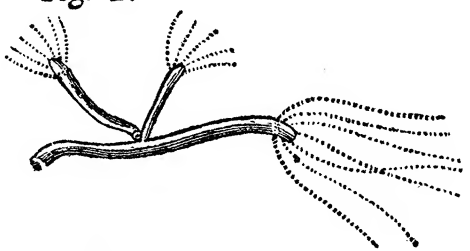
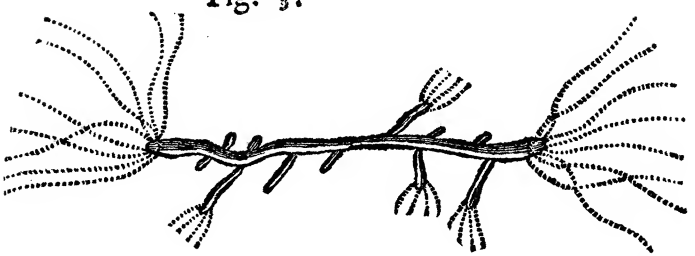
Fig. 3.